including a non-barrier portion substantially permeable to oxygen, said first and second compartments being encompassed by an outer wall substantially impermeable to oxygen, said method comprising the steps of:

placing a retail cut of raw meat within said second compartment;

sealing said second compartment;

substantially removing oxygen from said first compartment <u>and introducing one or more gases</u> [solely by flushing said first compartment with one or more gases];

supplying said first compartment with an oxygen scavenger to absorb residual oxygen within said first compartment;

activating said oxygen scavenger with an oxygen scavenger accelerator; and

sealing said outer wall.

[Please add new claims 31 and 32 as follows:]

31. (New) A modified atmosphere package, comprising:

a first package configured and sized to substantially totally enclose a retail cut of raw meat and including a non-barrier portion substantially permeable to oxygen;

a second package covering said first package and being substantially impermeable to oxygen, said second package creating a pocket between said first package and said second package, said pocket being substantially free of oxygen in response to substantially removing the oxygen from said pocket and introducing one or more gases creating a modified atmosphere within said pocket; and

an oxygen scavenger positioned external to said first package to substantially absorb residual oxygen within said pocket, said oxygen scavenger being activated with an oxygen uptake accelerator.

32. (New) A method of manufacturing a modified atmosphere package, said method comprising the steps of:

supplying a first package including a non-barrier portion substantially permeable to oxygen;

placing a retail cut of raw meat within said first package;

sealing said first package;

supplying a second package substantially impermeable to oxygen;

covering said first package with said second package without sealing said second package so as to create a pocket between said first package and said second package;

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